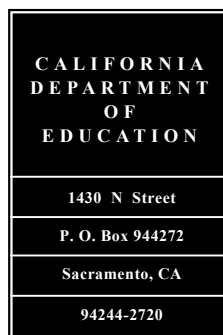




DELAINE EASTIN
State Superintendent of Public Instruction



November 18, 2002

To: County and District Superintendents
Charter School Principals
School Accountability Report Card (SARC) Coordinators (via e-mail)

From: William L. Padia, Director
Policy and Evaluation Division

Subject: Preparation and Dissemination of School Accountability Reports

Ref: PED-SARC 02-02

The purpose of this memorandum is to inform personnel in local educational agencies (LEAs) of the impending release of SARC templates with data and provide information regarding some additional state and federal accountability reporting requirements. These include specific guidance on how California Standards Test data should be reported on SARCs and a status report on California's negotiations with the United States Department of Education (USDE) regarding the implementation of requirements in Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, reauthorized as the "No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act."

Preparing SARCs in the 2002-03 Academic Year

LEAs must annually update and disseminate SARCs in order to provide current information to parents and other members of the public. The California Department of Education (CDE) interprets "annually" to mean "once in each school year." The preparation of reports that comply with State Board of Education-adopted requirements governing content and definitions precludes the preparation of these reports until November. Since SARCs must be prepared and disseminated before the school year's end, this defines a reporting period of November 2002 through May 2003.

CDE-Provided Templates and Data to Assist LEAs

The CDE is currently preparing templates and downloadable data files that contain all required data that are available to the CDE. LEAs that download the templates or the data files will have to incorporate additional local data, as necessary or appropriate, specific to local circumstances.

- SARC templates with data will be made available to LEAs by December 2, 2002
- SARC downloadable data files (with the data that are included in the template) will be available by January 2, 2003

For more information about requirements and resources pertaining to the format, process and timelines for preparing SARCs, visit the main CDE SARC Web page at the following address:

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/oep/sarc/>

The following links, located at the above site under SARC Coordinator Information and the SARC Preparation Essentials, may be particularly useful to SARC coordinators and others responsible for the preparation of SARCs:

[Sample SARC template with CDE and LEA data sources](#)

[Data Definitions for required SARC data elements](#)

[Frequently Asked Questions about SARC](#)

Reporting California Standards Test (CST) Data on the SARC

In addition to the CST language arts results that were reported last year, the templates that the CDE will release on December 2nd will incorporate CST results for math, science and social science for 2002. For the purpose of the SARC, math, science and social science scores are reported in the SARC as a composite score. Specific course results may be obtained by reviewing local STAR data or by visiting the CDE's STAR Web site at <<http://star.cde.ca.gov/>>. The course-specific data will not be included in the templates prepared by the CDE; however, an LEA may choose to include course-specific data for these subjects.

NCLB Reporting Requirements

The passage of NCLB imposes a number of significant new requirements on LEAs and the CDE. NCLB calls for integration of state and federal accountability systems (including reports). However, the numerous specific requirements in state and federal laws that are currently incongruent have prevented the implementation of some NCLB requirements according to the legislated timelines. The State Board of Education is in the process of formulating policy to reconcile differences between NCLB and state law. In January 2003, the SBE will submit a state accountability plan for NCLB to the USDE. Review and approval of California's accountability plan is not expected until Spring 2003. The CDE will disseminate additional information regarding NCLB reporting requirements once substantive decisions have been made.

CDE Technical Assistance

Questions to the CDE regarding specific requirements of the law or its implementation pertaining to the SARC should be addressed by e-mail to the following address:

sarc@cde.ca.gov

Inquiries may also be directed by phone to staff in the Policy and Evaluation Division at (916) 319-0875.